

and gift for words has left an indelible mark on the New Haven Register and its readers. After a career that has spanned seven decades, Bob announced his retirement and published his last column Saturday, April 21, 2007—just a month before his 91st birthday. His quick wit and unique perspectives will be missed by colleagues and readers alike. As so aptly put by colleague and current Register editorial page editor Charles Kochakian, Bob Leeney is indeed irreplaceable.

Bob's distinguished career in journalism began as a freelance writer in 1939 and he was soon brought on staff as a reporter, Sunday feature writer, and book critic at the New Haven Register. His only absence from the Register was due to his 2 years of service with the 3rd Air Commando Group, 5th Air Force during World War II. Bob became an editorial writer and served as the editor for the editorial page from 1947 until 1961, becoming executive editor in 1962 and finally editor from 1972–1981. During his tenure as editor, Bob was responsible for the technological modernization of the paper, introducing letters to the editor as well as the creation of the Sunday Arts & Leisure Section—literally changing the face of the New Haven Register. It is fair to say that the New Haven Register will not be the same without him.

After more than 40 years with the paper, Bob did step down as editor; however, some of his most invaluable contributions were still yet to come. His column, "Editor's Note," described as a fusion of literate prose and revealing insights, became a Saturday fixture—a must read for all Register subscribers. In fact, Bob did not miss 1 week writing his column in its 33 year run. "Editor's Note" was more than a weekly column—it chronicled New Haven's history and affairs with the unique perspective of its Irish-American author, creating a unique connection between the readers of the Register and our community's rich history.

Bob's contributions to journalism expand far beyond his work with the Register. He was a charter member of the Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists chapter, where he is now honored as a member of the Connecticut Journalism Hall of Fame. He served as the Commissioner of the Freedom of Information Commission for 5 years and has been recognized with a variety of accolades and awards throughout his career. The Yankee Quill Award for distinguished service to journalism, the Seal of the City Award from the New Haven Colony Historical Society in recognition of his contributions to New Haven's civic life, and the plaque that hangs in the heart of New Haven's Audubon arts district are but a few examples but serve as a reflection of all that this New Haven native has brought to our community.

As a respected journalist, community member, mentor, and friend, Robert J. Leeney has left an indelible mark on our community and a legacy that will continue to inspire generations of journalists to come. I am proud to stand today to recognize his outstanding contributions and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation for all of his good work.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT CHARLES EDWIN EATON

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles Edwin "Cotton" Eaton. On December 26, 2007, Cotton Eaton's family, the community of Athens, Texas and this country lost another hero in America's greatest generation. Born and raised in Navarro County in Texas, Cotton Eaton went on to serve his country proudly in the United States Army during World War II in the South Pacific. In peacetime, Cotton Eaton put his entrepreneurial spirit to work for this country as he owned and operated the Eaton Motor Company in Athens, Texas before retiring in 1988. Cotton Eaton's wit and spirited nature, anchored by a commitment to his family and community, earned him the respect of so many. Despite his own extraordinary contributions, Cotton Eaton always celebrated the gratitude of God's goodness in life.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this true American hero and offer my condolences to Cotton Eaton's wife of 67 years, Dorothy, their two children, Janice and John, and their grandchildren and great-grand children.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Charles Edwin "Cotton" Eaton.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN W. CUNNINGHAM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and outstanding leader in the labor movement, John W. Cunningham. His passing marks the end of an era at the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local Union 210 and the loss of a dear friend to many across Connecticut.

John was a carpenter. He worked hard all of his life and his commitment to the labor movement as well as his membership is unequalled. Joining Local 210 in 1956, just 10 years later he became a business representative and would serve the next 30 years as the General Agent of Carpenters Local Union 210. He was active both locally and nationally—fighting for policies and protections for his membership and working men and women across the country. In addition to his service with Local 210, John also served as the Vice-President of the Connecticut State AFL-CIO, President of the Stamford Labor Council, and President of the New England Regional Council of Carpenters. There was no stronger advocate or determined voice than that of John Cunningham.

John was responsible for the creation of the Carpenter's Legislative Improvement Committee which was the first federal political action committee established by a local union—providing a voice for carpenters' issues at the national level. And in the early 1990s John

formed the President's Committee with other union leaders which strengthened the Brotherhood nationally by providing new leadership and making it more responsive to the needs of its members. John was also instrumental in opening the doors of opportunity to women and minorities by implanting outreach programs which brought them into the trade.

John's efforts on behalf of working families extended far beyond his work to shape public policy. During his tenure, he created the Connecticut Carpenters' Health and Pension Fund and established Local 210's Scholarship fund which assisted members' children in pursuing higher education. He launched an apprenticeship and training program and began a program of inviting union members and the public to forums where they would hear from speakers that included Nobel Laureates, Pulitzer Prize authors, economists, and elected leaders. Perhaps most telling of his civic minded nature was his leadership during the National Building Trade Council's efforts to help the families of the 28 construction workers killed at the L'Ambiance construction disaster in 1987.

John understood the importance of serving one's community. He was an active member of the Weston community where he served on a number of boards and commissions, including the School Building Committee, the Town Building Committee, Planning & Zoning, Little League Baseball, and was a founding member of the Weston Booster Club. He was an extraordinary man who dedicated countless hours to making all the difference in the lives of thousands.

I join all of his friends and colleagues in extending my deepest sympathies to John's wife, Virginia, his six children; Kimberly, Devon, Bill, John, Caroline, and Diana, as well as his seven grandchildren; Chalan, Maeveren, Conor, Brennen, Makena, Samuel, and Geneva. I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of John W. Cunningham. His is a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5724, UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTIONS AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1092, a rule to suspend fast track procedures for the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). U.S. trade policy should promote democracy based on the protection of fundamental human rights. However, by sending the Colombia FTA to Congress, President Bush has disregarded the rights of workers in Colombia and the needs of working families in the U.S.

Since the 1980s, more than 2,500 workers have been assassinated in Colombia for joining, forming, or leading labor unions. More unionists are killed in Colombia each year than the rest of the world combined. We should not be engaging in free trade policies with a nation whose human rights record is so abysmal.